

What is claimed is:

1. A headless embedded system comprising:
an indicator capable of being illuminated;
an operating system;
applications that perform a function for which the headless embedded system was designed;
a processor responsive to an operating system and applications; and
an application that determines if the system is operating correctly, wherein if the system is operating correctly the application causes the indicator to be illuminated.
2. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the application determines the operating status of the system by determining whether a predetermined set of processes are active.
3. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
an input/output port in communication with the processor and the indicator, whereby the application instructs the processor to output a signal via the input/output port to the indicator.
4. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises an LED.
5. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the application causes the indicator to be illuminated with a first color if the operating system booted correctly and causes the indicator to be illuminated with a second color if the operating system failed to boot correctly.
6. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the indicator comprises a two color LED.
7. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the application determines whether the operating system booted correctly by determining whether a predetermined set of processes are active.

8. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the application causes the indicator to be illuminated with a first color if the system is operating correctly and causes the indicator to be illuminated with a second color if the system fails to operate correctly.
9. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the indicator comprises a two color LED.
10. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the application determines the operating status of the system by determining whether a predetermined set of processes are active.
11. A method for indicating the operating status of a headless embedded system, the method comprising:
 - booting the system;
 - determining if the system is operating correctly; and
 - illuminating a first indicator if the system is operating correctly.
12. The method, as set forth in claim 11, wherein the step of determining if the system is operating correctly comprises determining whether a predetermined set of processes are active.
13. The method, as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:
 - executing software that initiates a predetermined set of processes; and
 - wherein the step of determining if the system is operating correctly comprises determining whether a predetermined set of processes are active.
14. The method, as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:
 - illuminating a second indicator if the system is not operating correctly.
15. The method, as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:
 - restarting the system when it is determined that the system is not operating correctly.
16. A headless embedded system comprising:
 - an indicator capable of being illuminated;
 - an operating system which maintains a list of processes active on the system;

a processor responsive to an operating system and applications;
a serial port connected to the indicator;
registers used to control the output voltages on the serial port; and
an application that checks the processes active on the system and if a predetermined set of processes are active sets a register causing the indicator to be illuminated in a first color.

17. A headless embedded system, as set forth in claim 16, wherein the indicator is capable of being illuminated in a first and second color and wherein the application checks the processes active on the system and if a predetermined set of processes are not active sets a register causing the indicator to be illuminated in a second color.